

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A lockset mechanism comprising:
 - a sleeve having a transverse slot extending into said sleeve;
 - a catch mounted in said transverse slot and moveable between an extended position and a retracted position; and
 - a spring having a first arm engaged with said catch, a second arm extending outwardly from said sleeve and a loop portion formed between said first and second arms, said first arm and said loop portion being retained within said sleeve.
2. The door handle assembly of claim 1, wherein said sleeve includes an aperture extending into said sleeve, said second arm extending out from said aperture.
3. The door handle assembly of claim 2, wherein said first arm of said spring extends out from said aperture and then into said aperture.
4. The door handle assembly of claim 3, wherein said sleeve includes a support member disposed between said transverse slot and said aperture, said support member supporting a portion of said first arm of said spring.

5. The door handle assembly of claim 1, wherein said second arm includes a bent portion at its end.

6. The door handle assembly of claim 1, wherein said first arm is approximately twice the length of said second arm.

7. A door handle assembly comprising: ~
a sleeve having a first slot extending into said sleeve;
a catch mounted in said first slot and moveable between an extended position and a retracted position;
a spring having a first arm engaged with said catch, a second arm extending outwardly from said sleeve and a loop portion formed between said first and second arms, said first arm and said loop portion being retained within said sleeve;
a handle assembly including an operator portion and a shank extending from said operator portion, said shank having a second slot formed therein;
wherein said sleeve is received within said shank and a portion of said catch extends into said second slot to releasably couple said handle assembly to said sleeve.

8. The door handle assembly of claim 7, wherein said handle assembly urges said second arm of said spring towards said sleeve when said sleeve is received within said shank.

9. The door handle assembly of claim 8, wherein said sleeve includes an aperture receiving a portion of said second arm when said second arm is urged towards said sleeve by said handle assembly.

10. The door handle assembly of claim 9, wherein said second arm imparts a biasing force between said handle assembly and said sleeve.